

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A method of identifying a reagent that ~~reduces~~ decreases the amount of a lipid comprising the steps of:

(a) exposing said reagent to a nucleic acid comprising SEQ ID NO: 1 or 2 or to a polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO: 3 or 4 ~~a HBM or Zmax1 nucleic acid, or to a HBM or Zmax1 polypeptide;~~

(b) determining whether said reagent binds to said nucleic acid or to said polypeptide;

(c) administering said reagent that binds to said nucleic acid or said polypeptide to an animal or a cell, and determining whether said reagent ~~reduces~~ decreases the amount of said lipid in said animal or said cell.

Claim 2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said reagent is a protein, ~~an mRNA,~~ or an antisense nucleic acid.

Claims 3-5. (Canceled)

Claim 6. (Currently Amended) A method for identifying reagent that ~~reduces~~ decreases the amount of a lipid comprising:

(A) identifying a first molecule that binds to a nucleic acid of SEQ ID NO: 1 or SEQ ID NO: 2;

(B) measuring the binding of the first molecule to SEQ ID NO: 1 or SEQ ID NO: 2; ~~and,; and and~~

(C) administering said molecule that binds to SEQ ID NO: 1 or 2 to a cell and determining whether said molecule that binds ~~reduces~~ decreases the amount of said lipid in said cell.

Claim 7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6, wherein the reagent is a protein, ~~an mRNA~~, or an antisense nucleic acid.

Claims 8-47. (Canceled)

Claim 48. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid or the polypeptide is in solution.

Claim 49. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid or the polypeptide is affixed to a solid support.

Claim 50. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the polypeptide is located on a cell surface.

Claim 51. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the polypeptide is expressed by a host cell.

Claim 52. (Canceled)

Claim 53. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the polypeptide is SEQ ID NO: 4.

Claim 54. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein binding of said reagent is identified by co-immunoprecipitation with the polypeptide.

Claim 55. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein binding of said reagent is identified by co-fractionation with the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 3 or 4.

Claim 56. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein binding of said reagent is identified by binding to said polypeptide via a two-hybrid system in which a bait vector encodes an extracellular domain of said polypeptide.

Claim 57. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising determining whether said reagent differentially binds to SEQ ID NO: 1 and 2, or to SEQ ID NO: 3 or 4.

Claim 58. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said reagent binds to SEQ ID NO: 2 or 4.

Claim 59. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said reagent binds to SEQ ID NO: 1 or 3.

Claim 60. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said reagent binds to SEQ ID NO: 1 and 2, or to SEQ ID NO: 3 and 4.

Claim 61. (Canceled)

Claim 62. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 58, wherein the reagents binds SEQ ID NO: 4.

Claim 63. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 59, wherein the reagent binds SEQ ID NO: 3.

Claim 64. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 60, wherein the reagent binds SEQ ID NOS: 3 and 4.

Claim 65. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 2, wherein said reagent is a protein.

Claim 66. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the lipid is a triglyceride and/or a very low density lipoprotein (VLDL).

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Claim 67. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 6, wherein the lipid is a triglyceride or a very low density lipoprotein (VLDL).